Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) during the current year for want of an evaluation study.

Reservation in private sector

2233. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across hurdles in attaining the objective of giving reservation in jobs to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes in private sector;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enact a legislation for the purpose;

(c) whether any amendment to the Constitution is being considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation in private sector and to initiate a dialogue with industry to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The GoM has not submitted its report so far.

Schemes for welfare of older persons

2234. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of older persons is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for their care and protection; and

(c) whether any new schemes have been launched for the welfare of older persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government had formulated the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), covering financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter/ housing, protection of life and property and welfare of elderly. The progress is monitored by the Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) and National Council of Older Person (NCOP). The Ministry has been providing financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations under the schemes of (i) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons (Plan Scheme), and (ii) Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/ Self Help Groups for construction of old age homes/multi service centres for older persons (Non-Plan Scheme).

(c) No, Sir.

Schemes for welfare of SCs and STs

2235. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes available to NGOs/Voluntary Organizations in Karnataka to improve socio-economic conditions of SCs and STs;

(b) the details of the NGOs/Voluntary Organisations in Karnataka which have sought assistance to implement various socio-economic welfare schemes for SCs and STs during 2005-06; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to motivate more NGOs/Voluntary Organizations to take up various welfare schemes meant for SCs and STs welfare in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The details of the schemes are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(b) Sixteen Organizations working for SCs and Five Organizations working for STs sought assistance during 2005-06.

(c) State Governments including Karnataka have been requested from